

### 7/6/01 Ironworker Falls

An apprentice ironworker was killed when she fell through an unprotected vent shaft. The 38-year-old victim was near the end of her 3-year apprenticeship program and had worked at this construction site for a few months. The construction site was a large multi-story building that had several subcontractors working at the time.

The victim was working alone on the 3rd level of the building preparing to weld. She was positioning her equipment between 2 walls built around the vent opening. Workers had built a cover for the 4-foot by 9 foot vent opening but that cover had been removed and never replaced a few days earlier by workers from a different subcontractor.

The victim stepped back and fell through the opening landing 30 feet below onto a concrete floor. Another worker who just happened to walk through the area found her sometime later.

Questions to ask:

- Do you conduct weekly walk-around safety inspections (more frequently when needed)?
- Do you react quickly to correct hazards identified in the inspections?
- Are subcontractors made aware of their responsibility for the safety of all workers on the site?
- Are all floor openings and stairwell protected by guardrails, safety nets or covers?
- Do all workers on the site know how to report unsafe conditions?